

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled).

16. (New) A region selection device which selects one region from among a plurality of overlapping regions displayed on a display screen, the device comprising:

5 a region table which stores attributes of the plurality of regions displayed on the display screen, including a selection attribute of each respective region that indicates whether or not the respective region is selected;

10 a coordinate input device for designating a coordinate defined in the display screen;

 a region rearranging section for rearranging the plurality of overlapping regions on the display screen based on at least one attribute of the plurality of regions stored in the region table;

15 an inside selection decision section which selects one region by deciding whether or not the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device is located inside the region;

20 a border selection decision section which selects one region by deciding whether or not the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device is located on a borderline defining a periphery of the region;

an editing section which moves the selected region or
changes a size thereof; and

25 a selected state clearing section which changes the
selection attribute of every region in the region table to null.

17. (New) The region selection device according to
claim 16, wherein the region rearranging section automatically
rearranges the plurality of overlapping regions in order of
increasing area, such that one of the regions with a smallest
area is arranged on top.

18. (New) The region selection device according to
claim 17, wherein when the inside selection decision section
decides that the coordinate designated by coordinate input device
is within more than one of the regions, the inside selection
5 decision section selects a smallest one of the regions, by area,
enclosing the coordinate designated by the coordinate input
device.

19. (New) The region selection device according to
claim 17, wherein when the border selection decision section
decides that the coordinate designated by the coordinate input
device is located on borderlines of more than one of the regions,
5 the border selection decision section selects a topmost one of

the regions, as arranged by the region rearranging section, that corresponds to one of the borderlines on which the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device is located.

20. (New) The region selection device according to claim 17, wherein if a plurality of the overlapping regions have a same area, the region rearranging section rearranges the regions such that, among the regions with the same area, the regions are arranged from top to bottom in order of decreasing
5 perimeter.

21. (New) The region selection device according to claim 17, wherein when the editing section changes a size of the selected region, the region rearranging section automatically rearranges the overlapping regions in accordance with the changed size of the selected region.

22. (New) A method for selecting one region from among a plurality of overlapping regions displayed on a display screen, the method comprising:

storing, in a region table, attributes of the plurality of
5 regions displayed on the display screen, including a selection attribute of each respective region that indicates whether or not the respective region is selected;

designating via a coordinate input device a coordinate
defined in the display screen;

10 changing the selection attribute of every region in the
region table to null;

rearranging the plurality of overlapping regions on the
display screen based on at least one attribute of the plurality
of regions stored in the region table;

15 selecting one region by deciding whether or not the
coordinate designated by the coordinate input device is located
on a borderline defining a periphery of the region;

if the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device
is not located on any said borderline, selecting one region by
20 deciding whether or not the coordinate designated by the
coordinate input device is located inside the region; and

editing the selected region by moving the selected region or
changing a size thereof.

23. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein the
plurality of overlapping regions are automatically rearranged in
order of increasing area, such that one of the regions with a
smallest area is arranged on top.

24. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein when it
is determined that the coordinate designated by coordinate input

device is within more than one of the regions, a smallest one of the regions, by area, that encloses the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device is selected.

25. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein when it is determined that the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device is located on borderlines of more than one of the regions, a topmost one of the regions, which corresponds to one
5 of the borderlines on which the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device is located, is selected.

26. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein if a plurality of the overlapping regions have a same area, the regions are rearranged such that, among the regions with the same area, the regions are arranged from top to bottom in order of
5 decreasing perimeter.

27. (New) The method according to claim 23, wherein a size of the selected region is changed, the overlapping regions are automatically rearranged in accordance with the changed size of the selected region.

28. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein the selection attribute of every region in the region table is

changed to null each time a coordinate is designated via the coordinate input device, before one of the regions is selected based on the designated coordinate.

29. (New) A computer-readable recording medium having a computer program stored thereon that is executable by a computer to cause the computer to perform a process for selecting one region from among a plurality of overlapping regions displayed on a display screen, the process comprising:

storing, in a region table, attributes of the plurality of regions displayed on the display screen, including a selection attribute of each respective region that indicates whether or not the respective region is selected;

designating via a coordinate input device a coordinate defined in the display screen;

changing the selection attribute of every region in the region table to null;

rearranging the plurality of overlapping regions on the display screen based on at least one attribute of the plurality of regions stored in the region table;

selecting one region by deciding whether or not the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device is located on a borderline defining a periphery of the region;

20 if the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device
is not located on any said borderline, selecting one region by
deciding whether or not the coordinate designated by the
coordinate input device is located inside the region; and
 editing the selected region by moving the selected region or
25 changing a size thereof.

30. (New) The computer-readable recording medium according
to claim 29, wherein the plurality of overlapping regions are
automatically rearranged in order of increasing area, such that
one of the regions with a smallest area is arranged on top.

31. (New) The computer-readable recording medium according
to claim 30, wherein when it is determined that the coordinate
designated by coordinate input device is within more than one of
the regions, a smallest one of the regions, by area, that
5 encloses the coordinate designated by the coordinate input device
is selected.

32. (New) The computer-readable recording medium according
to claim 30, wherein when it is determined that the coordinate
designated by the coordinate input device is located on
borderlines of more than one of the regions, a topmost one of the
5 regions, which corresponds to one of the borderlines on which the

coordinate designated by the coordinate input device is located, is selected.

33. (New) The computer-readable recording medium according to claim 30, wherein if a plurality of the overlapping regions have a same area, the regions are rearranged such that, among the regions with the same area, the regions are arranged from top to bottom in order of decreasing perimeter.

34. (New) The computer-readable recording medium according to claim 30, wherein a size of the selected region is changed, the overlapping regions are automatically rearranged in accordance with the changed size of the selected region.

35. (New) The computer-readable recording medium according to claim 29, wherein the selection attribute of every region in the region table is changed to null each time a coordinate is designated via the coordinate input device, before one of the regions is selected based on the designated coordinate.